

U. S. EXPECTS REPLY WITHIN WEEK; COURT NOTE IS HANDED TO AUSTRIA

Message Denounces Shelling and Torpedoing of Liner Ancona as Inhuman, Barbarous, and a Wanton Slaughter of Helpless Men, Women and Children; Demands Disavowal and Reparation.

WASHINGTON, D. C., Dec. 12.—The United States expects within a week an answer from Austria-Hungary to the American demand that Austria disavow the act of the submarine commander in torpedoing and sinking the Italian liner Ancona, in which Americans lost their lives; and which the commander and officer indemnity to the relatives of the Americans who lost their lives. In case Austria does not reply favorably within that time, it is believed relations between the United States and the dual monarchy will be abruptly terminated.

Admiralty Apparently Justified Act.

Although in some quarters it was thought that the Austrian government might reply that the commander of the submarine exceeded or disregarded his instructions, it was pointed out that the official statement of the Austrian admiralty in regard to the sinking of the Ancona, apparently attempted to justify the actions of the submarine by stating that the vessel was approaching when the Austrian war vessel submerged and torpedoed the Ancona.

The text of the American note to Austria-Hungary, denouncing the shelling and torpedoing of the Ancona as "inhuman," "barbarous" and a "wanton slaughter of helpless men, women and children," follows:

"The secretary of state to ambassador Penfield.

"Department of state, Washington, D. C., Dec. 6, 1915.

"Please deliver a note to the minister of foreign affairs, textually as follows:

"Believable information obtained from American and other survivors who were passengers on the steamship Ancona shows that on November 7, a submarine flying the Austro-Hungarian flag, fired a series of shots at the Ancona, which then disappeared beneath the waves. That thereupon the Ancona attempted to escape, but being overhauled by the submarine, she stopped; and after a brief period and before the crew and passengers were all able to take to the boats the submarine fired a number of shells at the vessel and finally torpedoed and sank her while there were yet many persons on board; and that by shelling and torpedoing the vessel a large number of persons lost their lives or were seriously injured, among whom were citizens of the United States.

"Admiralty Statement Confirms.

"The public statement of the Austro-Hungarian admiralty has been brought to the attention of the government of the United States and received careful consideration. The statement substantially confirms the principal details of the survivors as it admits that the Ancona after being shelled was torpedoed and sank while persons were still on board.

"Disregarded American Views.

"The Austro-Hungarian government has been advised through the correspondence which has passed between the United States and Austria-Hungary of the attitude of the government of the United States as to the use of submarines in attacking vessels of commerce and the consequences of Germany in that attitude; yet with full knowledge on the part of the Austro-Hungarian government of the views of the government of the United States as expressed in no uncertain terms to the ally of Austria-Hungary, the commander of the submarine which attacked the Ancona failed to put in a place of safety the crew and passengers of the vessel which it presumed to be the impossibility of taking into port as a prize of war.

"Wanton Slaughter of Noncombatants.

"The government of the United States considers the actions of the commander of the submarine which attacked the Ancona as a wanton slaughter of defenseless noncombatants since, at the time when the vessel was shelled and torpedoed, she was not, it appears, resisting or attempting to escape; and no other reason is sufficient to excuse such an attack, not even the possibility of rescue.

"Believes Commander Unauthorized.

"The government of the United States is forced, therefore, to conclude either that the commander of the sub-

marine acted in violation of his instructions or that the imperial and royal government failed to issue instructions to the commanders of its submarines in accordance with the law of nations and the principles of humanity. The government of the United States is unwilling to believe the latter alternative and to credit the Austro-Hungarian government with an intention to permit its submarines to destroy the lives of helpless men, women and children. It prefers to believe that the commander of the submarine committed this outrage without authority and contrary to the general or specific instructions he had received.

Demands Disavowal, Reparation.

"As the good relations of the two countries must rest upon a common regard for law and humanity, the government of the United States expects the government of the Austro-Hungary to do otherwise than to demand that the imperial and royal government disavow the sinking of the Ancona as an illegal and indefensible act; that the officer who perpetrated the deed be punished; and that reparation be made to the relatives of the United States who were killed or injured by the attack on the vessel.

"The government of the United States expects that the Austro-Hungarian government, appreciating the gravity of the case, will accede to its demand promptly; and it rests this expectation on the belief that the Austro-Hungarian government will not sanction or defend an act which is condemned by the world as inhuman and barbarous, which is repugnant to all civilized nations, and which has caused the death of innocent American citizens."

"Lansing."

ALLIES AVIATORS DEFEND BOAT FROM THE GERMANS

Paris, France, Dec. 12.—An official communication issued here Sunday night says:

"A British cargo boat having run aground this morning off the Belgian coast, three German hydroplanes attempted to sink her. The British aviators defended the boat and shot down several of the allied airplanes, one of which was French, attacked them and put them to flight. During this time French torpedo boats from Dunkirk refloated the vessel, under the fire of a German battery.

"In Champagne, in the sector of Massiges, we replied to the enemy's fire of gas shells by a destructive fire on the city of Reims, the conditions of the 'intermittent' canning have occurred in the Vosges, where a violent snowstorm hindered the operations."

THREE BRITISH BATTALIONS SURRENDER TO THE TURKS

Berlin, Germany, Dec. 12.—Three British battalions of the army which retreated down the Tigris river from the city of Bagdad were surrounded by Turkish troops near Kut-el-Amara and surrendered according to a Constantinople dispatch to the Overseas News agency.

"The dispatch adds:

"It is expected that the British will retreat southward from Kut-el-Amara in the near future as their position there is in danger of being cut off."

GERMAN WAR COUNCIL HELD.

London, Dec. 12.—An important war council, over which the German emperor is presiding, is now taking place at German headquarters on the eastern front, according to a Constantinople dispatch to the Daily Mail. The council includes Gen. von Falkenberg, chief of staff, field marshal von Hindenburg, field marshal von Mackensen and the Turkish and Bulgarian general staffs.

CORONATION OF YUAN IS EXPECTED ABOUT JAN. 1

Peking, China, Dec. 12.—The text of Yuan Shi Kai's refusal and later his acceptance of the state council's tender of the empire to him are published here. In declining, Yuan said he was entirely unworthy, as he failed to accomplish results as a president. He urged the selection of some one else as emperor. It is now likely that the coronation will not be held before January 1.

In his letter of acceptance, Yuan said:

"The public has viewed with increasing impatience my refusal. My expectation of me is now more pressing than ever. Thus I find myself unable to fear further argument and I accept the position. I, therefore, order the ministry's bureau to take concerted action and make preparations. The laying of the great foundation necessary must not be done hurriedly. When the preparations are completed advise me."

"Meanwhile, all citizens should follow their daily vocations peacefully. Let no doubts or suspicions hinder your work. All officials should remain faithfully at their posts and maintain peace and order so that the ambition of their great president to work for the people's welfare may be realized."

TROOPS IN BROWNSVILLE DISTRICT ARE WITHDRAWN

Says the San Antonio Express: "Artillery no longer is needed at Brownsville nor along the lower Texas-Mexican border, according to Maj. Gen. Frederick Funston, commanding the Southern department. He announced yesterday at Fort Bliss, Oklahoma, that the troops at Brownsville had been ordered to return at once to Fort Bliss, Oklahoma, where they were sent to the Brownsville district last summer when the border was most active.

"It is likely other troops will be moved out of Texas within the next few weeks. This action is taken by the commanding general with the belief that the health of the border is passing with the enforcement of stringent military regulations against unauthorized crossings on the Mexican side of the border.

"A committee of San Antonio business men called on Gen. Funston yesterday to urge the closing here of the Seventh Infantry, which is stationed in Arizona. The general said the war department had ordered the removal of the troops and that it could not be brought here. However, there was an impression gained that other troops may take station at the border as the war ends."

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NO BANKRUPTCY AS WAR RESULT

French Economist Says Not Even Germany Will Be Financially Ruined.

Paris, France, Dec. 12.—The answer of Paul Leroy Beaulieu, the French economist, to the question "Will Europe be plunged into bankruptcy because of the war?" is "No, not even Germany."

Concerning the result of the present enormous spending of money by all the nations, the conditions following the war, he forecasts the end of the war a year hence and after its end a remarkable industrial activity with an international commercial rivalry leading to high tariffs in all the nations now at war, including free-trade England, and yet higher tariffs in the United States.

Losses Exaggerated.

He said: "While such a situation has never before existed in history, and while therefore all opinions must be given with some reserve, I am confident that no fear need be felt for a universal collapse of civilization. The destruction in this war, save possibly in the lives lost, have been exaggerated in the public mind. Not a single nation involved in the war has been ruined. The enduring power of accumulated wealth has been underestimated. It will take not more than ten or 12 years for the world to recover from its losses.

Predicts End Next Autumn.

"I estimate that the war will have come to a close by next autumn. Then there will set in a period of manufacturing activity the like of which we have never known. This period has been made necessary by the physical damage done by the diversion to war supplies of factories once engaged in making cloth and what not. During this reconstruction period we will work harder than formerly. There will not be the stagnation which paralyzed the southern states after the Civil war, but the reconstruction of the world will be the increasing taxes by each nation involved and the raising of tariffs to collect revenue. England will do like the rest, free-trade country though she is, and despite her comparatively less war losses. The United States, however, will not have to increase her tariffs. Although Germany is suffering far more than any of the other nations, since she is fighting them all, and spending huge sums, she will not be totally ruined by the war. It will, however, take her longer to recover.

Will Soon Catch Up.

Naturally after a couple of years of intense manufacturing, the nations will have caught up with their old supplies. The world will have replenished its depleted stocks of manufactured goods, and there will come then a slowing down in industrial activity.

"The United States is profiting, in a comparative sense, by the war, but it is a mistake to say she is benefited by it. No longer can she supply her best customers without her feeling the loss."

E. D. DENNIS ARRESTED ON CHARGE OF SHOOTING MEXICAN

E. D. Dennis, who lives at 111 Willow street, was arrested Sunday afternoon on a charge of shooting a pistol and a shotgun in the 400 block on Willow street, Franklin street, Martins was taken to the Emergency hospital and given treatment for gunshot wounds in the back. Martinez claimed Dennis shot him. Dennis is said to have shot in the direction of Emelia Valencia. He did not hit her.

The shot was taken from him by his son. He then drew a pistol, according to Capt. L. L. Hall, who made the arrest. He was placed in the city jail and will be transferred to the county jail. Dennis stated Monday that he must have been drinking as he did not know he had shot anyone.

Constructed at Great Cost for Recreation of the People of City.

Denver, Colo., Dec. 12.—A 75-mile automobile parade through Denver's mountain park occurred Sunday to signify the opening of the city's Mountain boulevard, constructed at a cost of more than \$250,000. Officials of Denver and civic organizations and the public generally participated.

Denver's Mountain park consists of more than 3,000 acres lying in the mountains 12 to 20 miles from the western limits of the city. It is said to be the only instance in which a municipality has gone for beyond its borders to acquire real estate for park purposes. Part of the tract was acquired by act of congress and authority to construct the roadway was secured by special act of the state legislature.

The new boulevard system extends west from Denver through Golden and is bounded by serpentine rise the Lookout and Genesee mountains, approaching the first snow-capped range of the Rockies at the highest point. The driveway is approximately 2,000 feet above Denver. It then descends sharply into Bear Creek valley, where it follows the foothills at Morrison, and thence to Denver.

The roadway with a minimum width of 25 feet was built at an average cost of \$8,000 a mile. For short distances where it was built out of solid rock, city officials place the cost of construction at \$20,000 a mile.

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TEXAS PROUD OF THIS CITY

Mayor Lea Says They All Praise El Paso for Its "Pull Together" Spirit.

"It's good to get back to El Paso again; it is the best city in Texas and they are all talking about us," said Mayor Tom Lea today, following an absence of a week in Waco, Austin, Dallas, Fort Worth, San Antonio and other cities. At Waco Mr. Lea attended the state grand lodge of Masons and was reappointed district deputy grand master for the El Paso district. "I met people from every city in Texas," said Mr. Lea, "and everywhere they asked me about El Paso and commented upon it as a fine city. The general comment was that there was too much 'pulling together' in most of the other Texas cities, but they all said they understood that everybody was 'pulling together' in this city more than I do."

Mr. Lea was interviewed by all the papers of the different cities where he stopped. At San Antonio, the Express of Saturday said:

Mayor Tom Lea of El Paso arrived in San Antonio last night from Waco, Tex., where he was attending the grand lodge of the Masons.

Mr. Lea became famous a few months ago when he issued an order to his police to arrest "that bandit, Pancho Villa," the minute he set foot on the American side of the border. He explained the matter in a public statement.

"Americans on the Mexican side were not allowed any security," he said. "They were constantly being arrested and imprisoned on trumped-up charges. Therefore I did not see why these Mexicans in the Villa outfit, who had done their best to make their own country a smoking ruin, should be allowed to run all over our own city boasting of their prowess."

"My orders have been obeyed, too. The El Paso police have lately been arresting Villa officers on this side who come over wearing civilian clothes, hoping to escape recognition. We charge them with vagrancy and generally fine them the maximum which is \$200 for that offense. It is seldom we have to arrest them a second time, for they take good care not to cross the border."

Mayor Lea paid tributes to two highly different and almost equally prominent Mexicans in El Paso—Andrés García, Carranza consul, and Victoriano Huerta, ex-dictator of Mexico.

Mr. García is a very able, conscientious, competent and courteous official," he said, "and has given me personal assurances that as soon as the troops of the United States are withdrawn, that hole of iniquity will be given a cleaning up and made into the fine city it ought to be."

"There is no reason in my mind why Juárez some day should not be a large and important town."

"Never mind what he was—and in judging him we must remember his indomitable spirit, his 'gumption.' If I may be allowed the term—but consider what the United States has acted the part of a fine old gentleman. To illustrate that touch of humor I spoke about, I may say that he has named his two grandsons 'Pancho Villa' and 'Carranza' because they quarrel so much."

YSLETA HUNTER KILLED HUNTING

John Webb Accidentally Shot by Companion While Hunting.

While hunting near Fabens Sunday morning at 11:30 o'clock, John Webb, of Ysleta, whose wife is a step-daughter of police officer E. H. Flores, was accidentally shot by his companion, Lenwood Demm. The wound inflicted was in the left arm, part of the shoulder being shot off. Webb was brought to El Paso on a freight train from Fabens at 4 o'clock Sunday afternoon, and died Sunday night at 10:20 o'clock as the result of the loss of blood and shock.

Caught Trigger.

Lenwood Demm explained the accident by stating that he and Webb were driving along in an auto truck when they saw some rabbits and brought the machine to a stop. Demm picked up his gun and stepped down from the truck and as he did so, the trigger of the gun was discharged. Webb was buried in a passing automobile to Fabens where the wound was given a temporary dressing by an army surgeon and then he was placed on a freight train and brought to El Paso.

Daughter Ill.

Webb was employed by the Rio Grande Oil Co., but lived at Ysleta and was survived by his wife, who has charge of the telephone exchange at Ysleta, and a small daughter and mother. He was 32 years old. Demm lives at Ysleta and the two men were using an oil truck of the oil company when the accident occurred.

Details of the funeral have not been arranged. The wound from which Webb died was similar to the wound which caused the death of Newman Fowler, who died from an accidental gunshot wound at Valentine, several months ago.

SHORT CIRCUIT CAUSES POWDER PLANT EXPLOSION

Pinole, Calif., Dec. 12.—A short circuit caused a fire Sunday in the plant of the Hercules Powder company here, and the fire caused the explosion of 1500 pounds of gelatin dynamite. The house where the explosion occurred was observed to have no flames, but the fire gave the employees warning and all escaped before the explosion.

The superintendent ordered every man away from the vicinity of the burning building and from a safe distance they watched until after the explosion occurred, which was more than a half hour after the flames were first seen. The officials at the works said they had no reason to believe that outside agencies had anything to do with the fire.

BIG STEEL BATTLEPLANE FOR U. S. ARMY IS TESTED

Readville, Mass., Dec. 12.—In the presence of army officers and members of the aviation corps of the Rhode Island national guard, Lieut. Byron Jones of the United States army Sunday tested out a big steel battleplane of an entirely new type.

The new aerial fighting machine is described as twice the size of an ordinary airplane, with a torpedoid body and two sets of wings. It is built of vacuum-steel throughout, and is driven by 140 horsepower motors, such as have been used recently to some of the warships in Europe.

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